

From: (b) (6)
To: [Nickel, Brian](#)
Subject: Washington Beef public Comment
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023 8:58:45 PM

To: Brian Nickel

We are submitting a letter of support for Washington Beef Plant in Toppenish, Washington. In this comment letter, we would like to convey some key points to support this family owned beef processing plant that is located on the Yakama Indian Reservation for the last 20 years.

The Washington Beef packer plant processes 1500 head of beef per day. They employ approximately 1000 employees and are one of the largest private employers in the Yakima County. Washington Beef packing plant is one of two federally inspected USDA plants of this size in Washington State.

The concern at this time, is the Environmental Protection Agency imposing significant changes being proposed. Washington Beef has worked with EPA and the Yakama Nation cooperatively and constructively over the past few decades ensuring that they are in compliance with the last NPDES Permit last issued in 2009. The environmental regulations have not changed since this permit was issued. Typically, when EPA imposes a different set of regulations, there is a rule making process including notice and comments. We believe EPA has missed this step.

Of particular concern is the fact that EPA has cited no justification or previous violations to support the significant changes being proposed and their permit writer could not provide the standards he used to issue his new permit.

The result of this decision by the EPA could impact the livelihoods of the local workforce employed at the plant, the region's family rancher suppliers, our customers, and the communities Washington Beef serves.

We are respectfully asking that EPA take a step back and that they go through the proper process so that they can consider technical information prior to imposing WA Water Quality Standards with limits typically associated with a domestic water supply. These are irrigation ditches.

Respectfully,
Ron Frank
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